# STATE OF THE CITY BEDFORD, OHIO

SPONSORED BY THE BEDFORD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



#### 2012 YEAR END



- ☐ City concluded 2012 with a \$2.6 million general fund cash balance.
  - These funds were a result of city income tax collections and savings from unspent budgets from all departments.
  - We will be subject to substantial State revenue cuts and real estate tax collections in 2013!
  - \$5.8 million reserve still intact
    - Legislation exists requiring a 15% reserve be maintained
- We are on schedule to operate at a balanced budget throughout 2013









World Changers is the nationally acclaimed volunteer organization that strives to help change the world for the better – one home at a time! In July 2012, approximately 240 student and adult volunteers came from 16 different states to complete construction and/or exterior maintenance repair projects for area residents in need. Twelve are churches were involved providing daily lunches to the volunteers.



Thanks to the generosity of our donors, 22 such repair projects were completed in the communities of Bedford, Bedford Heights and Walton Hills. Volunteers replaced roofs and siding on houses, painted houses, replaced gutters, built handicap ramps, repaired and/or razed garages and cleaned yards. Cash or in-kind donations from private donors and businesses assisted in offsetting the costs of materials for the various projects.

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



Chief: Dave Nagy

Asst. Chief: Shawn Solar





## Staffing

- 25 Line Firefighters (21 Paramedics)
  - Firefighters work 24 hour shifts
- 2 Chief Officers (2 Paramedics) 23 Paramedics Total
  - 85% of Department are Certified Paramedics
- 1 Civilian Administrative Assistant





### 2012 Request for Service

- 2348 Total Requests for Service
  - 7% decrease from previous year
- □ 1849 Requests for Advanced Life Support Rescue Squad
  - Accounted for 79% of department's calls
- 419 Fire / Specialized Rescue Calls
  - Responded to 35 Structure Fires
  - Total fire dollar loss Increased by 19.5% from previous year





#### 2012 in Review

- Received \$365,000 SAFER Grant from FEMA. Will enable department to increase staffing by 2 firefighters at zero cost to citizens. A direct result of this will be the ability to fully staff 2 Advanced Life Support Rescue Squads on all shifts.
- Received \$32,000 grant from Ohio Bureau of Worker's Comp. Funds
  were used to equip department's ambulances with power-load cot
  systems. These systems dramatically decrease the stress on firefighter's
  bodies and hopefully will decrease the number of firefighter injuries.
- Actively working with Bedford Heights and Maple Heights toward implementing the first combined Fire and Police 911 Center in Cuyahoga County.



#### 2013 Goals

- Maintain Quality of Life for our Citizens.
- Continue to explore Regionalization and Resource Sharing Opportunities.
- Implementation of Regional Dispatch Center.
- Reduce fire loss.





## POLICE DEPARTMENT



Chief: Greg Duber

Deputy Chief: Kris Nietert





## 2012 Staffing

- 31 Officers
- $\Box$  6 F/T 7 P/T Dispatchers
- 4 P/T Correction Officers1 F/T (2012)
- □ 4 F/T 3 P/T Support Staff
- 23 Auxiliaries
- □ 3 P/T Animal Control
- 5 P/T School Crossing Guards





#### 2012 in Review

- Department had one lieutenant retire
- One officer took a 3 year leave of absence for Military
- Two new officers hired & trained
- Made one sergeant promotion
- One supervisor attended the Supervisor Training and Education Program (STEP) through the Ohio Chiefs of Police Association
- Upgrade to our RMS / CAD



Part I Offenses	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>
Murder	0	0
Rape	1	1
Robbery	4	16
Assault	<i>7</i> 6	64
Burglary	54	38
Theft	<i>517</i>	487
Shoplifting	301	259
Auto Theft	50	35
□ Arson	1	0
MV Accidents	310	261



## 2013 Goals

- Focus on Community Policing: Maintain quality of life
- Reduce Part I offenses: Focusing on hotspots and problem areas
- Reduce shoplifting and criminal activity: Rockside and the Northfield area
- After 32 of service, Chief Duber will retire; leaving way for the hiring of his replacement and making one promotion to sergeant
- Prepare for transition to Regional Dispatch Center

## SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS







Director: Clint Bellar

Superintendent of Public Works: Shawn Francis

#### SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

- 40 employees in the service, water, waste water and cemetery
- Consistently provide multiple services such as:
  - Operation and maintenance of Bedford Water Dept., Waste
     Water Treatment Plant & Bedford Cemetery
  - Leaf pick-up, chipper service, snow plowing
  - Maintenance of all vehicles, paint striping and sign repairs
  - Water, sewer (1400 calls), sanitary and storm needs
  - Currently maintain 50 miles of roads within the City
  - Extensive in-house street / curb repair
  - Landscape/maintain Public Square, Veteran's Park and downtown area
  - Christmas lighting display

#### SERVICE DEPARTMENT & PUBLIC WORKS

- Completion of water line replacement project for Grand Blvd.,
   Franklin and Magnolia (Issue 2 grant....\$240,000 grant,
   \$454,000 loan)
  - City matched \$300,000 by issuing bonds
- Waste Water Treatment Plant UV disinfection improvement -\$560,657 (waste water fund)
- Commercial Water Meter replacement program
  - \$223,128(water fund, completed 2012)
- Waste Water Treatment Plant Equalization basin cleaned and pumps replaced. Total costs = \$499,935.00

## RECREATION DEPARTMENT



Director:

Randy Lewis





#### **Special Events**



- Easter Egg Hunt
- Memorial Day coordination
- Fourth of July participation

- Baseball Days
- Progressive Field
- Halloween Party
- Christmas Party

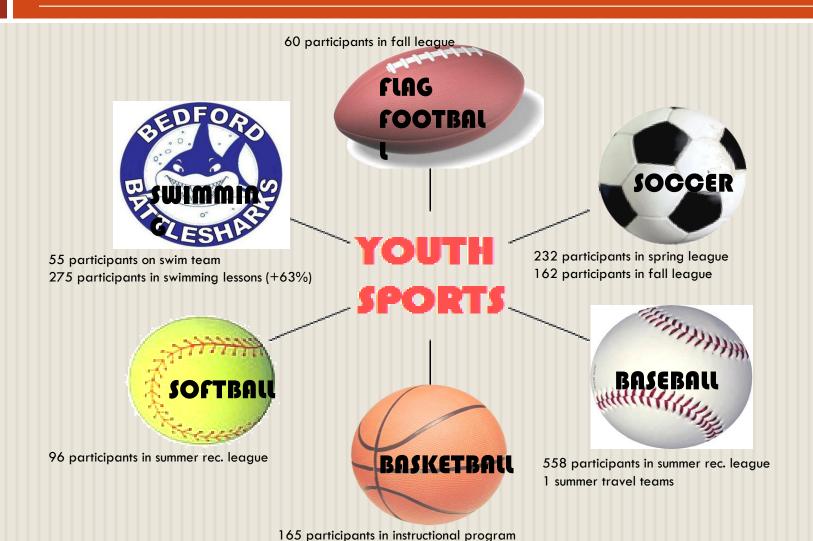




- In 2012 the City completed the construction / renovation of the Palmetto Tot Lot. These improvements were possible through a \$35,000 grant from the Cuyahoga County Office of Development.
- The City recently received a \$4,000 grant from the Cleveland Indians Charities for bleachers and fencings at our ballparks.









#### **Fast Facts & Activities**

- The Recreation Department maintains over 27 acres of property along with the baseball fields at various locations.
- In 2012, over 67,000 people utilized Ellenwood Center with permitted functions; this does not include open gym, or special events/activities.
- More than 30,000 individuals utilized the pavilion with permitted functions (does not include the open to the public uses).
- The Senior Citizen Van provided trips for over 2,700 residents, averaging almost 18 trips a day, and logging over 15,800 miles in 2012.
- The Ellenwood Center was open for activities on 322 of 365 days in 2012, almost 90% of the year.





#### Senior Programming

- **Senior Van Service** Our Senior van travels over a thousand miles a month to serve nearly 300 seniors. The van transports to doctors' visits, shopping trips, personal and business appointments and hospital visits.
- **Senior Line Dancing** nearly 30 seniors gather each Monday morning to enjoy some exercise and to socialize. This year the group expanded to Thursday evenings to serve seniors who are still working.
- **Senior Chair Aerobics** nearly 60 seniors have fun shaping up with this low impact exercise class.
- **Senior Movie Wednesdays** 20 seniors gather bi-monthly to enjoy some popcorn and movies from present and past.
- Medicare/Health Insurance Counseling through the Ellenwood Center nearly 75 seniors received helpful advise and assistance in choosing medical and health care plans through Medicare and the private sector.



#### Senior Programming Cont.

Craft Class – Once a month about 20 seniors get together to create a craft of the month.

WII Bowling – Several dozen senior residents have enjoyed participating in our newly-organized WII bowling league this past year at Ellenwood. One senior is currently holding a 241 pin average! Plans are underway to begin play with WII Golf or WII Baseball in the coming year.

**Tax Preparation –** We scheduled over 100 appointments for free AARP tax preparation services offered at Ellenwood. In 2012 Ellenwood also became an e-filing site.

**Senior Bus Trips** – The Seniors group goes on 6 to 8 trips a year with a portion of the trip being subsidized by the City. Some of the trips include the Indians game, plays and historical sites.

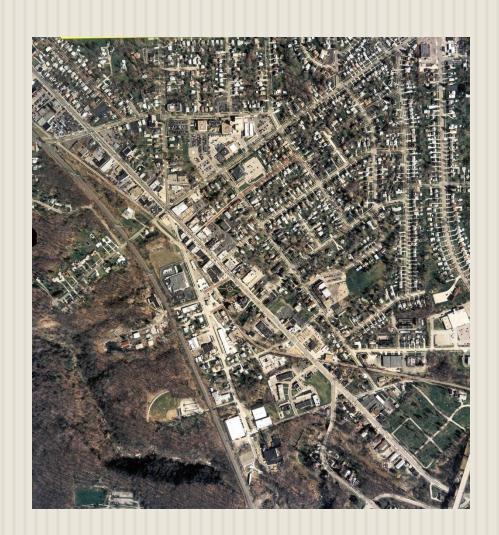




## BUILDING DEPARTMENT



Beautiful Bedford, Ohio Less than 5 ½ square miles





- 5 full time employees
- □ 475 Contractors registered for the City; \$26,850.00
- 227 point of sale inspections; \$11,900.00
- 1737 apartment units & 685 rental dwellings
  - Over 900 property inspections performed
    - <u>350 more than 2011</u>
- Internet Sweepstake Cafes; 320 Broadway, 277 Northfield
  - \$5,000 yearly application fee (\$10,000.)
  - \$26,10.00 device fee for all locations in 2012



### **Projects of Scale**

- □ Ben Venue Remediation Ctr. Renovation \$475,000.00
- □ Ganley Jeep / Dodge Project \$1,200,000.00
- Bedford Audi \$1,500,000.00
- Ganley Subaru \$950,000.00
- Rockside Road ER \$300,000.00

Estimated value of all construction....\$4,962,029.00 (\$2,079,160.00 in 2011)



#### Vacant Residential Property Program

- The range of construction work for these homes included: new windows and doors; new roofs; remodeled kitchens and bathrooms; new carpeting and/or floorings; fresh paint; upgraded electrical work; upgraded plumbing; new garage doors and roofs; driveway, sidewalk and access walk repairs; tree trimming and removal; landscaping
- The City currently owns 8 homes associated with this program.
- In the winter of 2011, the City was awarded a \$150,000 grant from Cuyahoga County to build an energy efficient home.
  - □ The City will be working with Doty and Miller Architects to coordinate the construction which will commence this summer



#### Doty & Miller Architects

600 broadway avenue bedford, ohio 44146 tel: 440-399-4100 fax: 440-399-4111



preliminary front elevation

scale: not to scale

**Energy Efficient Infill House** 





- □ Further, the Building Department is actively tracking the numbers and properties in foreclosure or being held as bankowned properties (REO). These lists are updated weekly and sent to the Police Department for properties to be checked and/or secured if necessary. In addition, the Building Department is maintaining a list of contact names and addresses associated with these properties. At regular intervals these lists are also given to City Council members so each is apprised of the foreclosures and bank-owned properties within their particular wards.
- Partnership with the Cleveland Restoration Society
- There are roughly 123 vacant homes to date, which includes bank owned, government owned and estate owned
  - This is in comparison to 130 from January 2012

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT



#### **Finance Director:**

#### Frank Gambosi

- Frank was reappointed for another 3 year term (2012-2014), and he just completed his appointment as chairman (2009-2011) which he served as one of twelve members of the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada's Special Review Executive Committee (SREC). Responsible for overseeing the operations of the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Program, as well as establishing program policy, subject to review by the GFOA Executive Board.
- Frank was also appointed as 3 year term trustee in 2012, of the Municipal Finance Officers Association of Ohio representing Municipal Finance Directors of District 8 (Cuyahoga County).



## FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.



- 7 full time 1 part time employees in tax and finance departments
- In 2012 department received its 22nd consecutive International Award from the Government Finance Officers Association
- The City maintains an investment board consisting of the City Manager, Law Director and Director of Finance.
- The City has been self-insured regarding Health Insurance costs for our employees for the past 22 years.
  - Unfortunately, in 2012 the City had \$700,000 more in claims than 2011; however, over the other years the net savings from this type of program was \$200,000 per year vs. a premium plan program (estimated savings to date over \$1.9 million)

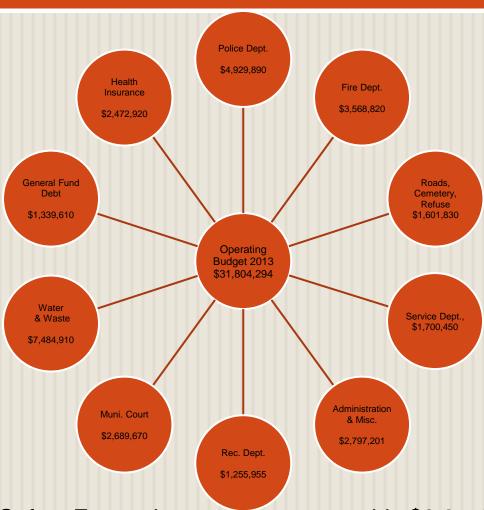
## FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.



- Monitor throughout the year fund balances, construction projects and grants and report upon them to Council, the State of Ohio and Federal Government Agencies.
- The City has been working with a private collections company in an effort to collect back taxes. The result of this was a record amount of collections of over \$472,000 in 2011 and 357,000 in 2012.
- □ The Tax department has saved \$28,000 from 2009 2012 by not issuing tax forms to residents & businesses.

## FINANCE DEPARTMENT CONT.





- •The Safety Forces Levy generates roughly \$2.3 million.
- •The Fire Medic levy generates roughly \$727,385

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



#### □ Director: Michael Mallis

Mission: The City of Bedford is committed to retaining and attracting businesses to our community. The City works in partnership with public and private organizations to enhance local capacity and provides resources that support economic development activities.



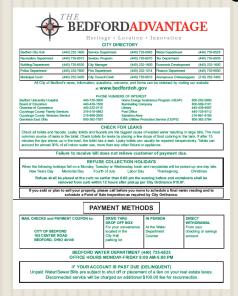




#### **Marketing Efforts**

- Our goal has been to inform our residents and businesses of as much information as possible
  - Monthly utility bill inserts, Facebook, Twitter and quarterly redesigned newsletters to help inform the public.
  - All city employees completed customer service training







#### **Grants & Projects**

- Administered the Storefront Renovation Program
  - Saved local businesses over \$35,000.00
- Issue 2 grant to replace water lines at Grand Blvd., Magnolia & Franklin Street – awarded over \$694,000 grant / loan
- Neighborhood Stabilization Grant to Construct an Energy Efficient home awarded \$150,000 (project will be completed in 2012)
- Collaborated with all departments on the County Energy Program for various energy improvements
  - City reduced its energy costs by \$70,000.00 2011 to 2012
  - Still have roughly \$75,000.00 in grant money for additional improvments
- Also successful in grants through the Solid Waste District, Cuyahoga Arts and Culture & other organizations

Over the last 10 years, the City has been successful in obtaining over \$25 million in grant dollars



#### **Bedford Auto Mile Improvements**

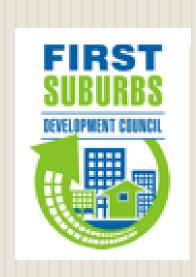
- Over the course of the next 18 months, the Bedford Auto Mile will be investing roughly \$20 million into the City with various dealer renovations and improvements.
  - Include Bedford Audi, Subaru, Kia, Mercedes, Toyota and others.







- Job creation tax credit
- Community Reinvestment Areas; administered jointly by Economic Development and Finance Departments
- Moderator Arts and Cultural Board
- Elected President of the First Suburbs Development Council







#### 2013 & Beyond

- Replacement of Broadway water line Issue 2
- CDBG Road Resurfacing & Streetscape project
- Continue to market the City of Bedford as a whole....housing, businesses, service and overall quality of life
- Pursue the Development / remediation of the old Taylor Chair Property
- Collaborate with the developers of Meadowbrook
   Market Square to enhance retail in complex
- Collaborate with Hemisphere to market Tinkers
   Creek Commerce Park



## QUESTIONS / COMMENTS



